

### REMARKS

Claims 12-16 and 18-22 are pending in the present application. Claim 12 was amended in this response to incorporate subject matter in claim 17. Claim 17 was canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 18, 21 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12-16, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by *Duault et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,336), in view of *Duault et al.* (US Patent 5,930,265). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are patentable over the documents of record and respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

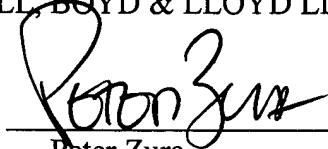
Applicants have amended claim 12 to incorporate subject matter contained in claim 17, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. In light of the amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 12 of the present application, as well as claims 13-16 and 18-22 which respectfully depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious over the art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-212) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", written over a horizontal line.

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